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MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1906.

A Constitutional Convention.

The suggestion made by Representative
De Armond, of Missouri, that a convention
be held to consider amendments to the
Federal Constitution will attract un-
derstandable attention, when the public mind
is on the qui vive concerning the growth
of Federalism. His suggestion is based
upon his belief that a constitution framed
more than 100 years ago, when conditions
were vastly different, when corporations
were in their infancy, and when the popu-
lation was sparse, is a constitution that
may lack something now. He does not
intend, to quote his own words, that there
be embodied in the Constitution
"all that might be, or is now, sufficient
or desirable for present needs, or to equip
the people to meet the rapidly growing
needs of the future of a great country."

The proposition thus presented involves
too many important considerations to be
hastily settled. The main objection, we
anticipate, will be the fear that any at-
tempt to tinker with the Constitution will
result in a larger number of amendments
than is prudent or wise. Mr. De Armond
answers this objection by pointing out
that the safeguards interposed in the
pathway of all amendments will prevent
the enactment of those which are not
eminently desirable.

It is remarkable that the Constitution
has proven elastic enough since it was
adopted in 1787 to meet the varying
conditions of our national progress. It would
be still more remarkable if, as the years
go by, it should continue to prove ade-
quate for all the contingencies to which
our developing civilization may give rise.
But it is certain that no effort to amend
it will be seriously undertaken until it is
evidently required.

Whether that time has arrived, as Mr.
De Armond suggests, is a question for
the country to determine. Certainly it
would seem safer to amend it than to
strengthen it than to subject it to doubt-
ful interpretation to fit every given emer-
gency that may arise.

"All the world is prosperous," says
Secretary Shaw. Even those lands with-
out standpatters. Mr. Secretary?

Hands Off in Morocco.

It was appropriate that the successful
fight for a clause declaratory in the
Algeiras treaty of our purpose not "to
depart from the traditional American for-
eign policy which forbids participation by
the United States in the settlement of
political questions which are entirely
European in their scope" should have been
made by such a consistent champion of
that traditional policy as Senator Eugene
Hale, of Maine.

There was a time when Mr. Hale's ap-
peals against the extension of this gov-
ernment's activities to distant lands fell
on deaf ears. He endured derision from
every quarter for his opposition to our
Philippine policy, but his prophecies have,
in the main, come true, and the trend of
sentiment is now rapidly setting his way.
It has been a matter of satisfaction
to him that Republicans and Democrats
rallied in such numbers for a clear
declaration, right at the threshold of the
Moroccan question. The treaty probably
could not have been ratified but for this
declaration.

It is sufficient for the United States
to busy itself with its own affairs and to
confine itself, as far as possible, to the
mainland. We cannot retrace our steps
in the Philippines, perhaps. The Cuban
problem will continue to embarrass us.
But by all means let us avoid entangle-
ments in Africa.

"The people are not content with tech-
nical representation," says Gov.-elect
Hughes. The idea of talking about Platt
and Dewey like that!

Mr. Root's Speech Illustrated.

While Secretary Root's warning to the
States that the Federal government
would shear them of their rights if they
did not attend to their duties is still
ringing in the ears of the American
people, here comes an appeal to the Fed-
eral government to be up and doing
because the railroads have not delivered
coal enough in the Northwest to main-
tain a normal supply. The emergency is
no doubt pressing, and the Interstate
Commerce Commission, within the limits
of its powers, has acted promptly. Its
action, however, is suggestive, not manda-
tory. Its telegram to the railway pres-
idents of the Northwest merely states that
complaints have been received by the
commission that the railroads are failing
to transport the necessities of life, the
implication being that if the railway
managers do not remedy the situation, the
complaints the commission will do what-
ever lies in its power to enforce a remedy.

The incident is a typical one, with all
the elements described by Secretary Root
as tending to that extension of Federal
power which has been so conspicuous a
feature of recent political evolution. First
may be noted the failure of the State
authorities to grapple with the emergency;
second, the appeal of the people to the
Federal government direct, without the
intervention of the State, and lastly, the
attempt of the Federal authorities to find
a way to comply with the popular
appeal, even though it be necessary to
stretch the constitutional limits of the
Federal authority. The fact that the
people turned their faces toward the gov-
ernment, instead of applying to the rail-
way presidents, shows the marked popular
tendency toward involving government in
interference in the large industrial concerns
of the nation.

We should think the problem of sup-
plying coal to any given community

peculiarly adapted to solution by railway
men themselves. The car shortage, of
which complaint is made and which is
said to be the principal cause of the fuel
famine in the Northwest, is due, in all
probability, to a technical fault in railway
management, over which the Interstate
Commerce Commission has no control.
The remedy is sought by careful study
of the problem, and when found will be
applied by the railroads as a matter of
self-interest. That the people of the
Northwest should appeal to President
Roosevelt for improved railway service,
rather than to President James J. Hill, is
of great significance to the observer of
the trend of political development in this
country.

How would a Washingtonian like to be
called a "Wash"? Then why say
"Jap"?

Our Relations with England.

The question of who is to be chosen by
the British government to succeed Sir
Mortimer Durand as Ambassador to the
United States assumes considerable im-
portance in view of the attitude of sev-
eral of the prominent English papers
which affect to find a change in the feel-
ings of friendship of the United States
toward Great Britain. It is believed by
a number of people in England that in-
stead of trying to cultivate a greater
friendship and a more cordial intimacy
with Great Britain, we have been turning
more and more toward Germany.

Of course, such feeling is reflected on
this side of the water. It is not a case
with us as a nation and Germany and
Great Britain.

"How happy could I be with either were either
dour chamber away."

We like them both equally well, and
are glad to do business with them, and
shall strive, as we have always done, to
see that we sell both of them more than
we buy from them—all in a neighborly
way!

It is perhaps a slight feeling that they
have got themselves in a quandary that
is responsible for Great Britain's suspi-
cion about us. When, fearing Russia on
her Indian frontiers, as she has done for
many years, England saw a row im-
minent between her bugbear in Europe
and Asiatic Japan, she jumped at the
opportunity of making an offensive and
defensive treaty with Japan. It was a
treaty that answered its purpose well,
for one clause of it—that which provided
that in case of two nations combining
against either one of the parties to the
treaty, the one should come in and help
the other—has been the mainstay of her
policy in the East.

But now—though there is in reality
no danger of a war between Japan and
America—there has, by reason of the talk
of such a war, arisen the question, With
whom would Great Britain be in such a
fight? We should like to believe, of
course, that "blood is thicker than wa-
ter," and that the Anglo-Saxon race
would stick side by side; but in view of
Great Britain's obligations, there is at
least a reasonable doubt. So it be-
hoves England to send as her next Am-
bassador to this nation a man strong
enough, suave enough, and capable
enough to cement with greater firmness
the good feeling between the nations; a
representative who, by his acts and abili-
ties, could galvanize into quicker life
that sturdy phrase, "Hands across the
sea."

Secretary Bonaparte has submitted
plans for a \$5,000,000 battle ship. This
will make a terrific hit with that large
sector of the incoming Congress known as
Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson.

The Proposed Poe Monument.

Richmond, Va., is strangely convulsed
over the question of whether a statue of
Edgar Allan Poe shall be erected in that
city. The council set aside one-half
of the money necessary, to become avail-
able when certain patriotic societies raised
a like amount. Violent opposition has
sprung up, however, especially among
friends of the family of Poe's adopted
father, toward whom his conduct is
alleged to have been ungrateful and un-
manly. Certain old inhabitants have not
forgotten discreditable things about Poe,
the man, and find it impossible to look
with favor upon a tribute to his genius.

This seems an extremely narrow and
untenable position to take. Poe was un-
questionably one of the greatest literary
lights this country ever produced.
If Richmond declines thus to honor Poe,
some other city will do so, and in the
end Richmond will regret her act. One
may have the highest respect for those
who think that Poe should, for personal
reasons, be denied the statue, but the idea
if allowed to prevail, would like-
wise relegate to oblivion Nelson, Byron,
and scores of other great men, literary,
military, professional. Of course, Poe's
works will stand an everlasting monu-
ment to his memory. If the Great Power
above can forgive the personal frailties
of the weak and erring below, surely
mere man may overlook the bad and per-
petuate the good.

Banker Schiff says: "Our monetary sys-
tem is all wrong." Yes; but, as usual,
the doctors all disagree as to the proper
remedy.

The Friends of Simplified Spelling.

The movement toward a simplified sys-
tem of spelling, which received such a
hard blow from Congress the other day,
might have a much better chance of suc-
cess if it were not for the fact that among
the most ardent advocates of the change
are the publishers of schoolbooks and
dictionaries. Of course, the English
language may be in a perilous state, and
may need some brave souls to rescue it
from the degradation into which it has
fallen, but the work should be for love
rather than for profit.

For instance, one of the men foremost
in the agitation for the new form of
spelling is Dr. L. K. Fink, of the Funk
& Wagnalls Company, and it does not
need a very wise man to see what a nice
thing it would be for the Funk & Wagnalls
Company if the sheep-bound dic-
tionaries they have been selling for years
should need to be replaced by lexicons
brought up to date. Another leader in this
reform is Henry Holt, head of a publish-
ing firm in New York which issues a few
novels, but an infinite number of school-
books, and it is patent that if only the
30 words with which they propose to
start the reform could really be
officially adopted, it would be idle to
perpetuate the present schoolbooks and
so keep the youth of the land in the
error from which the rest of the world
is to be rescued.

But even among "authorities" on the
new spelling who have so much at stake
in the proposed change there seems to be
a lack of unity and accord. They do
not seem quite sure about the reforms
they would inflict on the world, and
already some of the words in the original
30 they are withdrawing, as likely to
lead to confusion. Among these words
is "mist," which they would govern-
mentally "mislead." Some of the
reformers make an ingenious attempt
to relate the present effort at reform
with the board which was appointed by

the United States in 1889 to confer on
the spelling of geographical names, but
the two things are widely different, for it
is obvious that the names of new lands,
new islands, and new seas, named
arbitrarily, needed to be harmonized,
whatever the spelling, to prevent geo-
graphical confusion.

The simplified spellers have had their
innings, and it has been a longer one
than they really deserved. Enough pub-
licity has been given to the subject
through the length and breadth of the
land to convince any one that there is no
crying need for modern pedagogues to
disturb the English language.

Presidents come and Presidents go, but
the old "blue-back" speller goes on for-
ever.

A Springfield (Ohio) woman deserted
her husband because he is tongue-tied.
It is difficult to please some women.

A man was arrested for racing through
the Louvre on roller skates the other day.
He was probably doing France on one of
those "Seeing Europe for \$3.98" tours.

The Charleston News and Courier
makes the happy suggestion to Congress
that it go on a strike for better pay.

"Times are so prosperous that even the
anti-Santa-Claus-myth crank has not had
a word to say this season."

A number of Congressmen will doubt-
less find Washington a good enough place
to spend the Christmas holidays this year.

Perhaps some of these anti-Bulley fel-
lows out in Texas might view the Sen-
ator's act of borrowing money from the
octopus in a kinder light if the Senator
had not been so foolish as to pay it back.

A London tailor calls attention to "Mi
Nu Guds." If that doesn't get him a fine,
far order from Skibo Castle, then we
mistake the metal in the Laird's make-
up.

"Alcoholic distillate from fermented
grain," is the proper technical designation
of whisky, so it is given out; but the
man in a hurry continues to say "Gimme-
thames."

"The Burmese prefer coins with female
heads on them," explains the Cleveland
Plain Dealer. Perhaps on the theory that
it is only the real money that talks.

It does look a little funny to see Mr.
Roosevelt playing coon to the House's
Davy Crockett.

Tradition says the first locks were made
in England during the reign of Alfred
the Great, but it was not until civiliza-
tion had progressed to the middle of the
fourteenth century that their use became
general, and only at the highly civilized
period of the nineteenth century that
steel vaults, burglar-proof safes, and such
things became necessary.

Italy will fight the Standard Oil. If
Italy isn't careful Mr. Rockefeller may
regulate by cornering the peanut and
bajan markets.

In his anxiety to make it hot for the
Hottentots, Emperor William may indi-
cidentally succeed in making it hot for
himself.

Mr. Carnegie says that an income tax
makes life hell. But is questionable these
days to have both an income and a
liar in the family.

A baseball magnate has just been
awarded a salary of \$15,000 for next year.
Some of our Congressmen might make
good on the salary proposition by letting
the country slide for itself, while they
slide for the pennant.

The new Douma will be very radical,
and the terrorists are again becoming
active in Russia. No wonder Nicholas
dreads having Congress on his hands.

It now seems that the entire Japanese
row was precipitated by ninety-three Ja-
panese youngsters. And we were about to
get into a war because California in-
sisted upon it being twenty-three for the
ninety-three.

As soon as he was informed of Congress
action regarding simplified spelling, Mr.
Carnegie hurried to the golf links. There
he could express his feelings without re-
serve.

Too Much Sweetening.

From the Kansas City Star.
It is related of Gen. Sterling Price that
he once stopped at a humble cabin in
Missouri and asked for supper. The good
wife of the house was thrown into a
dutter of excitement over entertaining her
distinguished guest, and profuse with
apologies for the not very tempting
menu, consisting of corn dodgers, boiled
collards, and wheat coffee sweetened with
sorghum. The hungry officer ate heart-
ily of the coarse food, but not relishing
the very sweet coffee, he asked the host-
ess to "Not quite so much sweetening, please."
"The idee!" gasped the loyal hostess.
"Catch me skimpin' your sweeten-
in!"—us she tilted the molasses jug up-
ward, and poured a copious stream of
overfed cup and saucer and threatened
disaster to the spotless homespun cloth.

"Why" (enthusiastically), "that coffee
would be none too good for Gen. Price if
it was all molasses!"

Alcoholism and Consumption.

From the Philadelphia Press.
In a recent address before the Ameri-
can international congress on tuberculosis,
Dr. T. D. Crothers, of Hartford,
Conn., the head of an institution in that
city for the treatment of inebriates, took
occasion to point out the close connec-
tion between alcoholism and tuberculosis.
The principal point presented by Dr.
Crothers in his address is that alcohol
weakens the blood vessels of the respi-
ratory system and invites con-
sumption, that the roll of consumptives
receives annually vast additions from the
ranks of moderate drinkers. A reduction
of our national drinking capacity, there-
fore, means a reduction in the number
of victims of the great white plague.

Field for State Action.

From the Chicago Chronicle.
The Census Bureau finds that in 1902
about one-half of our States had inher-
entance tax laws which yielded them a little
more than \$5,000,000. The Census officials
believe that by the end of the States are
getting at the rate of fully \$10,000,000 a
year from this source. Here is something
for Congress to consider before entering
this field of taxation.

No Protest Came from Carnegie.

From the New York World.
Mr. Carnegie announces that he is
bitterly opposed to an income tax. But
he never protested against the govern-
ment's taxing other people's incomes in
the shape of excessive tariff duties when
he was pocketing the proceeds for him-
self.

Spelling as We Please.

From the Dallas News.
Congress has at one fell swoop de-
stroyed the movement toward phonetic
spelling and orthographic order, and here-
after Secretary Taft's name may be spelled
T-a-u-g-h-e-d.

Tillman All Right.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.
The more we hear about some of the
other Senators, the better we like Till-
man.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

The Christmas crush
Makes women flush,
And rumpled up their hair.
The shops are full
Of dames who pull
At bargains rich and rare.

The Christmas gush
Makes liars blush.
See Grace to Mabel cling!
"What do I want?"
"Why, dear, I shan't
Expect one single thing!"

The Christmas lush
Requires no bush.
For now, oh, sad to tell,
There is a tribe
That doth imbibe
Not wisely, but too well.

The Christmas slush
Earns liest of "cush."
For rhyming chaff, I wis,
Who find it sport
Of paying sort
To grind out guff like this!

Unavailable.
"My man, I'll present you with a piece
of soap if you'd like it."
"Thanks, leddy. I'd like it well enough,
but when one is leadin' a peripatetic life,
one can't incur himself 't curios."

Conscience Gifts.
"Some of these Christmas cards are
quite handsome."
"Yes; there's getting to be a demand for
them. When a girl receives a \$30 fur, 50
cents is little enough to expend by way of
return."

Of Course.
"Suddenly she let her voice fall."
"Did her voice break?"
"I presume so."

Under the Mistletoe.
She shut her eyes, this timeworn miss,
expecting him to steal a kiss. But his
was unheroic clay, and so he merely
took away!

THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

THE LITTLE BOY WHO PLAYED.
Upstairs and down, and through the hall
We heard the patter of his feet.
Now with his top, now with his ball,
Now chanting child songs soft and
Davy Crockett.

And sometimes he was laughing loud,
Or turning, rapt and eager-eyed,
And speaking quickly, just as though
There were a playmate at his side.

Among the roses he would run
At hide-and-seek—but for the fair,
Long golden rays flung by the sun
There were no touching fingers there;
Yet he would call by name and name
And stir and leap and romp and race
And early lose or win the game
With all joy's gleaming in his face.

And when the dusk crept down the hill
He looked all quaintly out and
To where the sky was calm and still
With its wide sweep of dark and star,
And he would whisper little things
And seem to hear a faint reply
When the wind's beating wings
Of some belated butterfly.

He had his playmate in each nook;
The shadows dancing on the wall,
The gurgling ripples of the brook
And sprits that answered to his call—
And ever since he went away
We leave his books and toys the same
And wonder will they come and play
As once in his day dreams they came.

And so we wonder, too, if he
Is playing somewhere near the throne,
Contented as he used to be
In a play-world he rules alone,
Or if he's still the same old boy
Saw not the playmates that he had—
The children who make Paradise
A golden place, all good and glad.

A GENTLE HINT.

"You are so popular," sighs the swain.
"You have so many suitors."
"The idea!" smiles the fair young thing.
"Why, I can count them all on the fingers
of my left hand. See. The index finger
is Mr. Smugfoot, the second finger is Mr.
Bulder, and the third finger—the third
finger of my left hand—the third finger,
next day he got the ring for it."

BUSINESS JUDGMENT.

"What price is this thermometer?"
"She asked the salesman most polite."
"Two dollars, madam," he said to her.
"Two dollars, and it is all right."

The Largest City.

The biggest city in the world fifty years
to come will be Berlin. That is the calcu-
lation of Herr Olumke, noted statis-
tician. Its population will be near 14,000,
000 and its only serious rival will be New
York.

In a pamphlet he has written to set
forth this prophetic theory Herr Olumke
says the population of Berlin is increas-
ing more rapidly than that of any other
city except Budapest, Hungary. To-day
Berlin has a population of more than 3,000,
000 inhabitants. The rapid growth with
Berlin's political and commercial im-
portance, will place the Prussian capital
ahead of London, Paris, and New York.
He calculates that London in 1953 will
have 7,000,000 inhabitants.

Two Tremendous Totals.

From the Hartford Times.
Two facts of significance stand out in
the annual report of Secretary Metcalf.
The exports from the United States dur-
ing the past fiscal year amounted to \$1,
595,500. That figure, surpassing by \$25,
000,000 the enormous total for the previous
year, establishes a new high record. The
other fact of importance is that during
the year 1,175,755 apples were admitted
into this country. That number, greater
by 152,286 than the count for 1905,
breaks all previous statistics of immigration.
The business which the United
States is now doing in the exportation of
products and in the importation of people
has assumed colossal proportions.

States Must Wake Up.

From the New York Evening Post.
Secretary Root was quite right in call-
ing upon the States to magnify their
function as the surest way to retain it.
Power clings to him who power exerts.

THE COWBOY'S HOME GOING.

I've been sweatin' for weeks on the roundup
And I'm all-radin' that I'm done;
I'm tired of ridin' and brandin'
I'm sick of losin' that fat horse;
I'm sick for a sight of the cabin
In the pines, where it nestles so cozy!
It's me for the trail over the mountains—
I want to get back to the boy.

In my dreams every night I can see him,
As pink and as sweet as a rose;
With his hands lined away with deep dimples
(Those hands can clutch heartstrings, God knows!)
I can see him smile at the hearthside,
And can see that fair head, over his toy;
Small wonder I'm packin' and cinchin'
I want to get back to the boy.

The others are off for the courtin',
And hell will be raised there tonight!
But the cowboy's home goin'—
Will give a more lasting delight;
It's the light that shines out of the cabin,
And makes him bright the path to the joy,
And the music's the glad cry of "Daddy!"
I want to get back to the boy.

—Denver Republican.

PEOPLE OF NOTE.

Considering Woodrow Wilson.

In the opinion of some influential Dem-
ocrats in Congress, Woodrow Wilson
will be the next candidate of their party
for President, provided, of course, that
William Jennings Bryan meant what he
said when he declared some time ago that
he was not seeking a third nomination.
While it is generally conceded that the
nomination will go to Mr. Bryan with
practical unanimity in 1908 unless he in
the meantime broadly passes the word,
as he did two years ago, not to nominate
him, present calculations of the Demo-
cratic managers are taking serious ac-
count of the availability of the president
of Princeton. They seem to think that
Woodrow Wilson meets the Democratic
"gold-fact" want. He is a Southerner of
Northern extraction. The State of his
birth is Virginia, his parents having
moved to the Old Dominion from Ohio
only a short time before he was born.
He graduated from the University of Vir-
ginia, from Princeton, from Johns
Hopkins. He practiced law in Atlanta a
year or more after graduating from
Princeton. Then he abandoned the legal
profession and took a special course at
the University of Chicago, where he was
one of the foremost students, and as an
authority on American history he has not
a superior. He is not a pedagogue, but
a great administrator, and experts
who have tested his political conclusions
declare that he is better grounded in the
real Democratic faith than Bryan is. His
close and intimate association with
Grover Cleveland for years has imparted
to his methods of thought a breadth and
practicality which he has demonstrated
with the big practical questions of gov-
ernment along Democratic lines.

The Ghost of '74.

The ghost of '74 is more terrifying
to the House of Representatives than the
celebrated crime of '73. The Democrats
the other day, when the members of that
body, by a substantial majority, refused
to increase their salaries. Representative
Thomas, of North Carolina, is one of the
few who voted against the proposed in-
crease to frankly acknowledge that he
was largely influenced in this course by
the disaster that overtook so many
members of the Forty-second Congress
who participated in what then became
known as "the salary grab." His father
was one of these. Thomas pre-empted all
the prospects of a brilliant political career,
and would probably have become one of
the most potent personalities in the poli-
tics of the South had he not voted for
the "salary grab." He had served his
country in the army, and in the Forty-
second and Forty-third Congresses, but
was defeated for the Forty-fourth on the
salary-increase issue, and then completely
dropped out of public life. Even to this
day the ghost of '74 haunts the halls of
none of the North Carolina delegation,
is frequently met in his district with
some question pertaining to his father's
vote on the "salary grab." Speaker Can-
non, by the way, is the only member of the
present House who voted for the repeal
of the "salary grab." The Forty-third
Congress repealed the unpopular act, and
"Uncle Joe" was swept into national poli-
tics on the wave of opposition to the
"salary grab."

Missouri's Senators.

It was in 1888 that the two distinguished
statesmen who now represent Missouri
in the Senate first met in battle array,
and a right royal war was, for in that
year Senator Stone was won by the Dem-
ocratic and Senator Warner the Republi-
can candidate for governor. Each had
served in the House at Washington, and
each had become inured to hard cam-
paigning by reason of the fact that the
districts of both were extremely close.
Each of them had to make a hard fight
for the nomination of his party for gov-
ernor. Even then the Republican hope
of carrying Missouri ran high. The rival
nominees held joint debates that stirred
party feeling to a mighty pitch. Stone
had secured his nomination by legal
methods that fooled all the old Demo-
cratic bosses, especially in the cities. It
was this fact that caused him to acquire
the sobriquet of "Gumshoe Bill," and it
was Warner who first dubbed him "Gum-
shoe." In his plea to the agricultural
classes for support, Warner feelingly re-
called the homestead struggle, and the
son of a poor farmer in Wisconsin, he
had frequently plowed in his shirt-tail.
Forthwith his opponent for governor
dubbed him "shirt-tail Bill." Warner's
first name being "Thus," the suffragans
had to choose between the